M/s IRCON for ensuring targets committed by M/s IRCON etc. The work is now expected to be completed by March 2009.

Inland Water Transport

2270. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme for promoting Inland Water Transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to open the extant National Waterway fully for transportation; and

(d) if so, by when it would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government has already declared three rivers/canal system, as National Waterways namely (i) the Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia (1620km.) (ii) the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 km.) and (iii) the West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram along with Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km.). Basic infrastructural facilities for shipping and navigation namely navigational channel, navigational aids, and terminals are being provided on these National Waterways.

Further, following three rivers/canal systems are in the process of declaration as National Waterways.

(i) Kakinada-Puducherry Canals along with rivers Godavari and Krishna (1095 km.).

(ii) East Coast Canal along with river Brahmani and Mahanadi Delta (623 km.).

(iii) River Barak (121 Km.).

(c) and (d) An action plan has been drawn up to make the 3 existing National Waterways fully functional by March 2010, subject to availability of funds.

Inland Water Transport in Kerala

2271. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated schemes to augment Inland Water Transport;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes;

(c) whether Government received projects for the development of Inland Water Transport in the State of Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether necessary approval of these projects have been granted; and

(f) the details of the funds released, if any, to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government has already declared three rivers/canal systems as

National Waterways namely (i) the Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia (1620 km.) (ii) the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 km.) and (iii) the West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram along with Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km.). Basic infrastructural facilities for shipping and navigation namely navigational channel, navigational aids, and terminals are being provided on these National Waterways.

Further, following three rivers/canals systems are in the process of declaration as National Waterways.

(i) Kakinada-Puducherry Canals along with rivers Godavari and Krishna (1095 km.).

(ii) East Coast Canal along with river Brahmani and Mahanadi Delta (623 km.).

(iii) River Barak (121 km.).

(c) to (f) 21 Projects for development of Inland Water Transport sector were received from the Government of Kerala under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Out of these, one project namely "Revival of Veli-Kovalam stretch of TS canal" was sanctioned at a cost of Rs 362.22 lakhs and initial release of Rs. 65.30 lakhs was also made during 2004-05 to the State Government. Five (5) project could not be processed for sanction for want of information sought from the State Government. Remaining fifteen (15) projects could not be sanctioned as CSS was discontinued w.e.f 01.04.07 by the Planning Commission.

Emissions by private vehicles

2272. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to stop private transport which is causing/increasing air pollution; and

(b) the measures being adopted by Government to reduce the quantity of emissions by the private vehicles and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir. A motor vehicle is entitled to ply on roads as long as it conforms to the prescribed emission standards.

(b) The prototype of every motor vehicle is required to undergo Type Approval test from any of the authorized testing agencies under Rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 to ensure that the vehicle meets the prescribed emission norms. Further, under Rule 115(7) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rule, 1989, all in-use motor vehicles are required to obtain 'Pollution Under Control' (PUC) certificate every six months from the agencies authorized by the State Governments.

Road network to tourist/religious spots

2273. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to develop road network to tourist/religious spots in coordination with Tourism Ministry to promote tourism in the country;